



BUDGET ADVOCATES REPORT January 2024

Los Angeles City Budget Update

The City has six capital projects that will require funding of over \$20 billion over the next decades.

The City is pursuing a plan to restore an eleven-mile section of the Los Angeles River that stretches from Griffith Park to Downtown Los Angeles. This involves the creation of wetlands and the development of the 42-acre Taylor Yard into a park. The estimated cost is \$1.5 billion, most of which will be funded by the City. It does not include the other 21 miles of the River that are in the City and the 19 miles that are south of the City.

The City is also looking at expanding and modernizing the Convention Center, most likely in a partnership with the Anschutz Entertainment Group, the operator of the Convention Center and the owner of LA Live. The projected cost is in the range of \$1.5 billion. This does not include the cost of an 850-room four-star convention hotel that would provide additional meeting space.

The City is also considering the development of a Civic Center consisting of 1.5 million square feet of office space that will allow the City to consolidate its many departments into a centralized location and 3.5 million square feet of residential space. This development would involve numerous phases over the next decade. The cost is estimated to be in the range of \$2-3 billion, some of which may be funded by private sector developers.

The City's Official Statement also discloses that \$2 billion is needed to upgrade the City's parks and recreational facilities.

Likewise, \$5 billion is needed to upgrade our streets and sidewalks.

The City is also on the hook for \$8 billion through 2037 to comply with the Clean Water Act, a portion of which may be funded through Measure W which is a parcel tax approved by 69% of the voters in November of 2018.

Funding for these projects has not been identified.

On December 11, 2023, City Controller Kenneth Mejia released an [audit of the LAPD airborne operation](#) also known as the Air Support Division or helicopter program. The audit focuses on the LAPD's use of helicopters from fiscal years 2018-2022 and explores whether the LAPD is

justified in the spending for the program's current size and scope that includes 17 helicopters and more than 90 employees. The average annual expense of \$46.6 million exceeds the budget of 14 City departments. The audit has been assigned [Council File 23-1422](#).

Budget Advocates Activity

To date the Budget Advocates have met with the leadership of over a dozen City departments to learn about their Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget requests and to discuss the delivery of City services. By the end of this month, we will have met with most of the City departments and will be preparing our reports and recommendations that will be included in our annual White Paper to be submitted to the Mayor and City Council for their consideration. All Neighborhood Council boards and Budget Representatives will also receive a copy.

Each Neighborhood Council may have two Budget Representatives. If your NC has one or zero, please appoint as needed and let us know who your Budget Representatives are at LABudgetAdvocates@gmail.com.

For more information about the Budget Advocates, please visit our website at www.BudgetAdvocates.org.